

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**In re Application of:**

KASHIWAGI, Masaki

**Application No.:** Unassigned

**Filed:** Herewith

**For:** IMAGE PROCESSING  
APPARATUS, IMAGE PROCESSING  
METHOD, AND IMAGE PROCESSING  
PROGRAM

**Examiner:** Unassigned

**Art Unit:** Unassigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.97 and  
§1.98**

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December 18, 2003

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and §1.98, the reference cited on attached form SB008A is being called to the attention of the Examiner. It is respectfully requested that the cited reference be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and the reference be made of record therein and appear among the "reference cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

As provided for by 37 CFR 1.97(g) and (h), no inference should be made that the information and reference cited is a prior art merely because it is in this statement and no representation is being made that a search has been conducted or that this statement encompasses all the possible relevant information.

Applicants believe that no fee is required for submission of this statement, since it is being submitted prior to the first Office Action. However, if a fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fee from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 502456. Please

deduct any additional fees from, or credit any overpayment to, the above-noted Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fidel D. Nwamu', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Fidel D. Nwamu  
Reg. No. 46,294

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